JOHN D. CLARKE
34TH DIST. NEW YORK

MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

March 21, 1924.

Rev. W. C. Robinson
Delhi, N.Y.

Dear friend:

The enclosed is a copy of a resolution I threatened to introduce but was dissuaded from introducing for fear of being brought before the Bar of the House for an alleged insult to the Senate which is considered a high crime, misdemeanor or something of the kind. The Speaker was one of those who dissuaded me and then went up to Springfield, Massachusetts to some dinner and evidently liked my ideas so well that he sprang them on the public up there, and I guess the Senate has no recourse with him up there where they might have with me, so I have laid the idea aside.

Your opinion is in accord with mine regarding some of the leaders down here and several have come to me recently to regret not standing up and waging a fight with me when the House was organized. It all goes back to the Direct Primary which has destroyed representative government. It is getting so Congressmen think in terms of their districts exclusively, and Senators in terms of their states, not in the terms of the nation.

As far as crookedness or dishonesty is concerned, money never has any lure for me. I have been in position thousands of times where I could have been rich myself, and got into the millionaire class, but thank God I have a good old Presbyterian conscience that I can bring back to my people unsullied by the lure of dollars, and not compromised in any vote I have ever made on the floor of the House. It would have been easier for me to have voted for the bonus politically, but I certainly could not have gotten away from my conscience.

True enough, I am simply a very human mortal and have my weaknesses, but my people have my everlasting best all the time down here. As a result, I am utterly worn out, have had a bad cold for three weeks, would like to quit, but here is where my duty is and I must stay. As I told another Congressman only a

few minutes ago, we must fight. Had I been here just a little longer, I would have been in a position to demand certain things that go with seniority, unfortunately. I have to bide my time and hope the people will send me back until I can at least assert my rights a little more strongly, but you understand the situation.

I am going to take the Chaplain, Montgomery, who has many friends in Norwich, together with Congressman Newton, whose ancestors came from Chenango County, up to a meeting we are to have there Friday night, April 4. If the prospects are fair for going fishing on Saturday, the 5th, I will drive over to the farm and go fishing, returning with the Congressman Sunday night, to Washington.

Have received quite a number of messages congratulating me on my vote against the bonus. I am sending out a statement. Enclose a copy of it.

Mrs. Clarke is well, but her mother is very, very poorly. Saw Jack a week ago last Sabbath. He is in good health but taking things very easy in school. He comes here tonight with a chum for vacation. They are going to the Club for the night.

Jean is the same good girl even if she has her hair bobbed, and we are all looking forward to getting back in the hills next summer.

With the best of wishes always to you and yours,

Cordially yours,

John M. Clarke

HOUSE RESOLUTION by Mr. Clarke of New York.

WHEREAS, under the theory of our Government, and pursuant to the inspired plan of the founders, it is divided into the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches, and

WHEREAS, it has become most apparent to even the casual observer that there have been, especially in the last few weeks, serious encroachments by the Legislative upon the Judicial branch of the Government, resulting in a multitude of investigations and hysteria and Grand Jury procedure too often resorted to, based upon the unsupported, heresay evidence of self-confessed crooks, criminals and corruptionists who have been dignified by being allowed to appear before special committees to vent their spite, spleen or disappointments and to express in the official Government hearings and records, stories, fables, slander, lies, criminations and recriminations, in language that should not be given publicity under Government sanction or allowed to go into libraries, be read by our citizens and especially by our children in seeking from the Congressional Records and Hearings, material for speeches and debates, all having a tendency to break down faith in our form of Government, destroy the reputation of your representative and its servants and demoralize the body politic generally, unworthy of the decorum or practices that should be maintained in allparliamentary bodies, and exploited through the too-eager press in a most reckless way in order to increase publicity and circulation thereof, and satisfy the cravings of sensationalists, the morbid and self-seeking, and

WHEREAS, The continuation of such unseemly, demoralizing and sensational performances has a tendency to bring the entire Congress, of

which the House of Representatives is an integral part, into public contempt and ridicule, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, through its Speaker, the Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, respectfully request the Senate of the United States to suspend the publication of its proceedings except the duty authorized legislative procedure, in the Congressional Record until the TRUTH, not fiction or heresay stories of too many disreputables and slanderlips can be thoroughly investigated, without undue publicity and until such time as passion shall have subsided and reason reasserted itself.

My constituents are entitled to know my reasons for voting against this bonus bill, and I accordingly set them forth below-

1. If the World War veterans are to be paid a bonus, it should be paid in CASH and the means for paying it provided by a tax so we all know where the money is coming from. The present bill provides neither payment in cash, except up to $50., nor the method of raising the money to pay same.

2. The principle of the present bunko bonus bill is, the soldier has to die to win.

3. Our own state of New York has provided or will provide the following funds for the soldiers who went out from the State of New York-

(a) An emergency fund of $1,000,000.

(b) A bond issue of $45,000,000 now being paid the World War veterans, and twenty two of the states of the North and West have voted the payment of a bonus to the soldier boys of their respective states, but I think no Southern state has to date paid a bonus.

(c) A bill now before the Legislature of New York will provide for the expenditure of approximately $1.250,000. for those who can not be paid from the $45,000,000.

(d) If the bunko bonus bill now before Congress should become a law, it would cost a little over $2,000,000,000., nearly 30% of which would be paid by the State of New York and the great proportion of which would be used to pay veterans from other

states, and many of these other states have refused to vote a bonus for the veterans who went out from those states.

Nationally, the financial and economic situations are far from pleasing. The same distress in our great fundamental industry, agriculture, on which at least 35,000,000 of our people directly or indirectly depend for a livelihood. Banks in the West and South have failed in great numbers. The situation is still so acute that Congressmen and Senators are pleading for an extension of the War Finance Corporation so "frozen credits" can be liquidated in an orderly manner and not force other banks to close their doors.

It is fundamental with me that the federal government shall see to it, and each Congressman and Senator is charged with this duty, that no wounded or dependant of any of our wars shall suffer, and I have cheerfully voted the appropriations and labored in season and out of season because I felt it was up to the federal government to show its appreciation to the veterans of all our wars.

Hospitalization, vocational training, re-educational work and every other helpful object have had my heartiest support and they will continue to have it, but a death-to-win bonus such as this measure, is not what those working for a bonus demanded and when the veterans understand this, I am certain they will understand and approve of my position.

A look at our record is worthy of consideration.

1. We have paid out through the Veteran's Bureau and its red tape predecessors, over $2,000,000,000. We will pay out for the next few years, approximately $500,000,000 per year.

2. There are bills now being considered by the Committee on World War Veterans Legislation, that will call for added expenditures of millions of dollars.

3. I have been told a pension bill will be shortly presented and this will demand large payments for the next sixty or seventyyears.

With all these expenditures, past, present or prospective, I feel that my duty is to first see to it that the wounded and dependents are properly taken care of, to lighten the burden of taxation as much as possible by not imposing new burdens either upon the people or upon industry so that through occupation the able bodied may have employment, our factories may be kept going and the blessings of labor given to all those who are willing to work.

4 Summer St.
East Dickenson, N Y.

Dear Dr. Robinson

So glad to receive a letter from you and do believe it has helped me very much. I have been down hearted many times and discouraged but to-day I feel encouraged.

At first my lessons were hard and many times I struggled with them and every nite I prayed that He would help me to have more courage and more endurance and patience with

my work at school and home.

This past week I passed another test - my 75 word a minute test in Shorthand. This Wednesday I try my 80 word test and the following week my 90 and if ~~my~~ I pass these successfully I will go on to the 100 test. I do hope that I may finish my studies here in 4 more weeks. And then I will be capable of taking a worth while position.

I had in mind, when I left Delhi to come back

there for a position but now I have become so fond of my surroundings and associates that I do not think I will leave the city.

This past week we have had Evangelistic meeting held in the church by the Rine Bros. I think any church becomes more compact by a change in the ordinary routine of services. I certainly enjoyed these.

Every week I hear from Delhi, then Mrs. Smith Hughes and other friends.

Trusting that I may hear from you again in the future and that I may profit by all your helping words.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Clarke

2/11/24

JOHN D. CLARKE
34TH DIST. NEW YORK

MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

December 17, 1923.

Rev. W. C. Robinson
Delhi, N. Y.

Dear pastor:

It is a pleasure to enclose my check for $25. for such use at Christmas as you may deem wise.

We have been extremely harassed by discordant elements within our own party and the Democratic party as well has found itself in fear and trembling when Mr. Bryan sought to get the cooperation of the liberals with the alleged progressives in the Republican party. This is largely due, in my judgment, to the quality and quantity we have down here, under the Direct Primary. I propose to reintroduce my bill for the reduction of the House from 435 to 217 and present the constitutional basis, the evolution of the House, etc. etc., to focus public attention upon the unwieldly mess we now have here. Some day the membership will be reduced and I propose to sow my seeds today. Some members have endorsed it enthusiastically. Others have sought to dissuade me, but it is my duty as I see it, and I propose to do it.

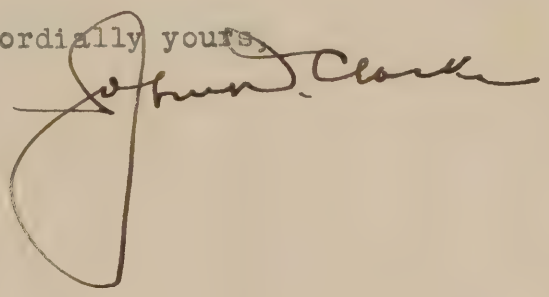
Thanksgiving we had Mrs. Clarke, Jack, Jean and my other secretary and her little daughter with us, together with Mrs. Clarke's mother, father and brother, which made it seem more like Thanksgiving, and Christmas we expect to have another reunion.

I will probably be in Delhi between Christmas and New Year's and of course will call on you and yours.

Don't fail to let me know when you are coming down here as I wish the honor of entertaining you.

With every good wish to the dear old "First" and to you and yours, and with greetings and felicitations of the season, I am

Cordially yours,



JOSEPH WILSON COCHRAN
~~WOODWARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH~~
~~DETROIT~~
~~MICHIGAN~~

July 7 1913.

Dear Courtland R——

Your delightful letter of July 3rd strolled along after my wandering footsteps, finding me in this tucked-away village of the Berkshire Uplands. It was mighty good of you to write. The unexpected kindness is always fine in flavor.

—It's been walking in a maze of dream for months. Can hardly get it's weir not to keep down and come back to our work in the Lord. But the Professor is passed this three weeks &

today should be starting on this strange new enterprise.

Detroit has a good experience. Can the shooting over the summer get a hit on our interest after six years of it. Almost endless thing of big show Churches, competing like theatres for Easter, has its drawbacks. We feel reluctant to think of standing a small enterprise long marking up fund-work, and the experience of our predecessors have our anticipations there. Time must tell the tale — the identification of the student work in the Easter Sunday Church Service will be one of Power, with better Centres to interest between the services

JOSEPH WILSON COCHRAN
~~WOODWARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH~~
~~DETROIT~~
~~MICHIGAN~~

Dear Professor Corwin of Princeton and
New Commission Petition — will this be
[illegible] Supporting.

We are sorrowing with [illegible] over the
death of President Harding. This
will bring [illegible] Secretary Hughes
a little more into the limelight.
Suppose Coolidge will lean hard
on Hughes.

Come over on next Sabbath or Monday &
[illegible] Ohio. [illegible]
Send [illegible]

Kindest [illegible]

2-27-23.

Dr W.C. Robinson

My dear friend, It was a surprise and pleasure to receive your letter last week. I want you to know that it was appreciated and means a great deal to me.

While I am trying not to hold any more than can be helped, but you know the saying, "You can forgive but only a fool can forget."

I thank you for your helping hand and inspiration, it has moved me more than anything else during the past few weeks.

Very truly yours

D.A. Cameron

THE MANSE
312 Irvine Place

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WALTER DUDLEY CAVERT, Minister

ELMIRA, NEW YORK

Jan. 8, 1923

Rev. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

A movement has been started in Elmira for a Billy Sunday campaign early in 1924. Some of us are not enthusiastic over the idea, but wish to be guided by facts and not by our prejudices. So we are asking the opinions of men as to the results of such a campaign in the cities where it has been held.

Philadelphia is being cited as a city where the religious life was greatly deepened and the churches strengthened by Billy Sunday. What were the results in your own church ? And as a matter of personal advice, do you think it would be wise for Elmira, an average city of 50,000 population, to have such a campaign.

I have a special interest in the matter, as I happen to be president of the City Minister's Association. I would appreciate a reply, if convenient, before Jan. 16, which is the date of our next meeting.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Very cordially yours,

Walter D. Cavert

E. W. WEST, PRESIDENT H. N. DICKINSON, VICE-PRESIDENT F. M. SMALLEY, SECRETARY R. C. CARTER, TREASURER J. A. MAVON, F. L. COWLES, H. W. KNIGHT, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

J. L. CUNNINGHAM
GLENS FALLS, N. Y.

Glens Falls
INSURANCE COMPANY
GLENS FALLS · NEW YORK

Glens Falls. N.Y.
Oct 6 1922

My Dear Dr Robinson: I take it good of you to let me hear from you as per your welcome favor of 2d inst. - You are surely one of the boys that I am interested in, and have been for, well, some years -

With you Albany trip might have been targeted to Glens Falls and given us a look at you -

What a marvel the Auto-car is, with its independence of conveyance, convenience and saver of time - It ought to multiply our usefulness -

Our Church affairs continue fairly prosperous - but high cost of building has made our proposed "Parish House" hesitate. Membership continues to grow - faster even than Church attendance, although our Sunday gatherings are of fair size, considering the Summer outside attractions of this region, which seem greater of Sundays - I do not see very much of our

good friend Hollis Stewart, but often Enough to be assured of his continued "worth-while-ness" — He is really an attractive personality — with a variety of features —

With all good wish

Cordially yours

Frederick James